

## Israel reaffirms crack-down policy

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's defence cabinet Sunday reaffirmed its policy on expulsions, house demolitions and denying entry permits to stem an upsurge in the Palestinian uprising. Israel Radio said. The cabinet secretary's office declined comment on the report and the radio said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir asked the ministers not to discuss the decisions. The ministers approved the expulsion of Palestinians and destroying Palestinian homes, the radio said. The defence cabinet also approved continued limitations on entry permits for Palestinians and prohibited Arabs from using their private cars to enter the Jewish state. Mr. Shamir's 14-member defence cabinet started discussing these measures last Wednesday after assailants stabbed six Israelis to death over the past month. The United States and international human rights groups have protested Israel's policy of expelling Palestinians, saying it violates international conventions on dealing with people under occupation. Four Palestinians from the Gaza Strip are currently appealing expulsion orders. The practice of destroying homes of Palestinian activists has also drawn criticism from the West as collective punishment.



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## Afghan rebels say garrison town taken

ISLAMABAD (R) — Western-backed Afghan rebels said they had Sunday captured the government garrison town of Khost, which has been under siege for most of the 12 years of the Afghan war. They said the town fell at the climax of a two-week offensive. The Kabul government said the rebels were helped by Pakistani troops, but Pakistan denied the charge. No independent confirmation of the guerrillas' report was immediately available. If confirmed, it would be the first major victory by the Mujahedeen guerrillas since they captured Tarin Kot, capital of Uruzgan province in central Afghanistan, last year.

## Iran wants envoys to visit Khoei

NICOSIA (R) — Iran protested to Iraq Sunday about treatment of its nationals there and asked for permission to send a delegation to visit the Muslim World's most senior Shi'ite scholar, who it claims is under house arrest. The Iranian news agency IRNA said Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Fakhri Hamoud Al Dulaimi had been summoned to the Foreign Ministry a day after President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani urged Iraq to "free" Grand Ayatollah Abolqassem Al Khoei. Mr. Dulaimi heard a protest about the "Baghdad government's mistreatment of Iranian nationals in Iraq particularly Grand Ayatollah Khoei and other (Muslim scholars)," IRNA added. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and Consular Affairs Mojtaba Mir-mahdi sought permission for an Iranian delegation to travel to Iraq to meet Ayatollah Khoei.

## Iraq says Dohuk and Erbil retaken

Combined news agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID Sunday that it had recaptured the provincial capitals of Erbil and Dohuk from Kurdish insurgents. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said its correspondent in the area reported "the saboteurs have fled towards the mountains, leaving behind them their weapons and supplies."

Kurdish rebels said Iraqi forces trying to retake the two provincial capitals pounded them Sunday with artillery, helicopter gunships and warplanes.

Iraq said its forces were greeted by singing, cheering people.

"The people of Dohuk and Erbil received our armed forces with national songs and cheering President Saddam Hussein..." INA said.

Tens of thousands of people have fled the Iraqi shelling in Dohuk. Western journalists said Saturday that Kurdish guerrillas made up nearly all the people left in the city 50 kilometres south of

(Continued on page 3)

## Hammadi pledges to implement reform

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraqi Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi has pledged that his government would work for political reform after it crushed a rebellion against the government of President Saddam Hussein.

But in his first major policy speech since his appointment last week, Dr. Hammadi said democracy could only be built upon respect for law — an apparent reference to the turmoil in Iraq after the Gulf war.

"The present government... will undertake completing the setting up of democratic institutions in all fields, especially matters upon which our political system is based — the constitution, party, information and institutions," he said in a speech carried by Baghdad Radio.

Dr. Hammadi also pledged his government would begin an era of reconstruction to repair the "not insignificant" damage caused by the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf war.

(Continued on page 5)

## Soviet foreign minister in China

BEIJING (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh arrived in China Sunday to prepare for the two countries' upcoming Communist Party summit and discuss the post-war situation in the Gulf.

"I understand (my) visit is going to be very good," Mr. Bessmertnykh told reporters at Beijing's airport before being whisked away in a motorcade. "We have a very important programme to discuss."

Mr. Bessmertnykh arrived from Japan, where he also was making preparations for a summit. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is to visit Tokyo on April 16.

Mr. Bessmertnykh was met by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei, but was not scheduled to begin talks with Chinese officials until Monday morning.

It is Mr. Bessmertnykh's first visit to China since he succeeded Eduard Shevardnadze as foreign minister on Jan. 15.

In Beijing, Mr. Bessmertnykh will make arrangements for Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin's trip to Moscow in mid-May. He also is expected to discuss the post-war situation in the Gulf, the Korean peninsula and Cambodia, the official Soviet news agency TASS said.

Beijing and Moscow, bitter foes for three decades, are working towards better relations in the diplomatic, economic and military trade fields, diplomats said.

Mr. Jiang said in an interview published on Sunday: "In the past four decades and more, Sino-Soviet relations, described in one sentence, have gone through a tortuous path. What happened then are bygones."

Mr. Bessmertnykh will meet his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen and Premier Li Peng Monday. He leaves on Tuesday.

China said earlier this month it would give one billion Swiss francs (\$730 million) commodity loan to the Soviet Union to let it buy Chinese goods and ease economic hardship.

China in turn is extremely interested in buying Soviet arms, particularly the SU-27 fighter, diplomats said.

China has been shut off from Western military technology in retaliation for using the army to crush pro-democracy unrest in Beijing in June, 1989.

There has been speculation that China would buy about 20 of the fighters, estimated to cost about \$30 million each, paying in cash and goods.

## Another rose-red city near Petra?

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At least one good thing has come out of last week's rain storm which wreaked havoc and caused widespread devastation in the southern governorates of Karak, Maan and Tafileh. Apart from the rain, which is considered as a great blessing for Jordan, new artefacts close to the Nabatean city of Petra have come to light in the wake of the storm.

An official at the Department of Antiquities who preferred anonymity told the Jordan Times that the remains of a large section of an ancient city that had been concealed for ages were suddenly revealed after vast quantities of earth and rock were washed away and hurled down the canyon within the boundaries of the rose red city.

According to the official, the concerned authorities have temporarily sealed off the area, pending the outcome of examinations conducted by three noted archaeologists hurriedly invited to Jordan to shed more light on the new finds. The scholars, now busy at the site, adjacent to Petra, revealed some of the facts about the finds, but promised a comprehensive report about the discoveries as soon as the preliminary examination has been completed.

The archaeologists believe that sections of the ancient site in question are indeed part of an ancient city built much earlier than Petra, which is believed to have been carved in the rock by the Nabateans nearly 2000 years ago.

"We have engaged a small team of excavators to help us carry out the work at the site, but we cannot at the moment reveal much about our work," according to Peter Simons, head of the three-member team.

"So far we have uncovered the remains of tombs, homes carved in the rock, water channels, baths, paved streets, market places used by the Nabateans and a vast building resembling the treasury of Petra," said Dr. Simon.

Archaeologists have acknowledged the existence of visible signs in the hilly regions north of Wadi Mousa like pottery shards, fallen stones, wall lines and other elements, which indicated so long that many of Petra's monuments were still buried beneath the earth," Dr. Simon noted.

The new site, he said, could be part of the still concealed large site of a "more ancient Petra which could have been built 3000 years ago."

One of the most striking monuments of which only a part has been unearthed, he added, is a temple and a nearby terrace which could be part of an amphitheatre.

The Ministry of Tourism has so far kept tight-lipped about the new discovery but officials who declined to be named said that more information could be released on Tuesday.

The archaeologists believe that sections of the ancient site in question are indeed part of an ancient city built much earlier

## Assad, Mubarak discuss post-war situation

CAIRO (AP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Sunday held talks with President Hosni Mubarak on the post-Gulf war situation in the Middle East and other issues.

Mr. Mubarak greeted Mr. Assad at Cairo international airport and then gave him an official welcome ceremony at the presidential Kubbah palace.

The Egyptian president hosted a working iftar for his Syrian guest.

Security arrangements in the region after the end of the Gulf war were likely to be the main issue the two presidents will discuss.

Egypt sent 38,500 troops and the Syrians 19,000 soldiers to Saudi Arabia to join the U.S.-led allied offensive which forced Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia were at the forefront of Arab states which opposed the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In exchange for security, the oil-rich countries will offer financial aid to the two states.

The duration of Mr. Assad's visit to Cairo was not immediately known.

Syrian sources said Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak were likely to discuss the efforts of Iraqi rebels to oust the government of President Saddam Hussein as well as prospects for an Arab-Israeli settlement.

Syria restored ties with Egypt in December 1989 after a 10-year break resulting from Cairo's decision to make peace with Israel.

## Kuwaiti opposition hardens demands

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti opposition leaders hardened their demands in negotiations on a post-Gulf war cabinet this weekend, calling for a review of multi-million dollar reconstruction contracts signed during the crisis.

Preliminary estimates put the cost of rebuilding the emirate and repairing the damage inflicted on its oil industry at fleeing Iraqi troops at more than \$50 billion.

Mr. Hashem said opposition groups, united by their common demand for democratic reforms, feared a select few from the ruling Al Sabah family, mainly ministers, could have been made local partners in projects awarded to the crowded, impoverished strip.

The 15 opposition leaders once again made clear to the crown prince, who is also prime minister, that they would not join his cabinet unless a clear date for parliamentary elections were set.

"Our leaders demanded the formation of a representative committee of Kuwaitis known for their integrity and honesty to reconsider all contracts signed during the occupation," opposition lawyer Salah Al Hashem told

Reuters.

The emirate's oil-rich government-in-exile signed reconstruction deals with several Western firms during the seven-month Iraqi occupation.

Opposition activists and diplomats said opposition leaders demanded the review Saturday during talks with Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who had been expected to announce a new cabinet last week.

The three left Thursday.

Israeli military authorities said the trip was aimed at raising Arab money for new housing and economic development in the crowded, impoverished strip.

But Palestinians said the delegation would also seek PLO approval for one of the three, Faiz Abu Rahme, former head of the Gaza Bar Association, to become mayor of Gaza City at the head of a local council.

The other two Palestinians are brothers Akil Mattar, head of the engineers association, and Akram Mattar, director of an Israeli-run eye hospital in Gaza City.

## Gaza leaders in Cairo for talks on council

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Three leading

Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip have gone to Cairo to seek economic aid and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) approval to set up a local council in Gaza City, Israeli sources and Palestinians said Sunday.

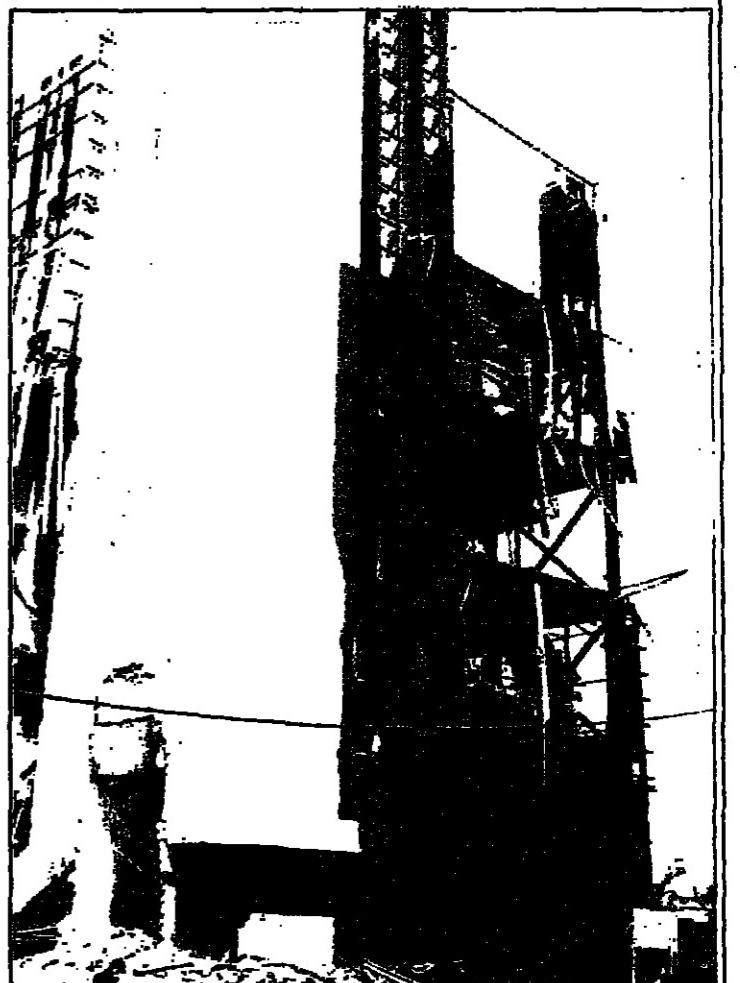
Easing restrictions on the Palestinians in the occupied territories could be part of symbolic confidence-building gestures the United States wants Israel and Arab states to make as a step towards peace talks.

The last Gaza City mayor resigned at the start of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987. Since then the city has been run by an Arab city manager and Israeli military authorities.

Israeli officials said recently held talks with Palestinians on improving services and establishing a local government in Gaza City which is acceptable to the residents.

The Islamic fundamentalist

(Continued on page 3)



## Iraqi group set up to coordinate relief supplies faces awesome task

### 'What happened here is unimaginable,' director says

By Mariam M. Shahin

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

The writer has just returned from a week-long working visit to Iraq.

BAGHDAD — Physical evidence of the American-led bombing of this city which lies between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is abundant. In every district of this city of four million people almost all buildings which took care of public services lie in ruins. In most neighbourhoods there is at least one block of civilian homes which was hit, proving that this war was not as precise bombing as claimed by the allied forces.

China has been shut off from Western military technology in retaliation for using the army to crush pro-democracy unrest in Beijing in June, 1989.

There has been speculation that China would buy about 20 of the fighters, estimated to cost about \$30 million each, paying in cash and goods.

Trying to dampen the frustration of relief organisations which feel that duplication of certain relief supplies is stunting their efforts. Dr. Qaysi admits that duplication may very well take place because "no one knows what is needed and where."

The task of the Relief Supply Committee will be to come up with estimates of what has broken apart, where and to determine the needs of the population according to their location and resources available in these areas.

But the rebuilding of the city's and country's infrastructure to ensure that its citizens

Shifting populations — a result of the war and internal unrest for which the war opened the door — will also have to be considered. The population of many Baghdad suburbs is reported to have risen since the unrest in the south began March 6. The number of Iraqis displaced by the occupation of 15 per cent of Iraq's total land area has also not been determined yet.

The government, which is readjusting to an opening up of the internal political system, cannot give the countless non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that are in Iraq any just one example.

(Continued on page 3)

Jordan Times

# Middle East News

## Catholics mark Easter with plea for Mideast peace

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Church of the Holy Sepulcher was lit with hundreds of candles and filled with the perfume of incense as Christians prayed on Easter Sunday to mark the resurrection of Christ.

The Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem, Michel Sabbah, said mass in the venerated Crusader basilica for several hundred Arab Christians and small groups of Western pilgrims.

He later told reporters that the message of Easter was one of peace for the Middle East, so recently torn by the Gulf war.

"We need no more bloodshed," Patriarch Sabbah said. "We need to realize all peaceful and just ways."

Patriarch Sabbah, the first Arab to lead the Latin church in the Holy Land, also urged Israeli leaders to come to terms with the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He noted that the Jewish celebration of Pesach, or Passover, which began last Friday, marks the deliverance of the ancient Hebrews from slavery in Egypt.

"The message of Pesach is a message of liberation for all people, for the Israeli people and the Palestinian people as well," he said. "This means courage and means not to be afraid of peace."

A similar Easter appeal came from the Greek Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem, Lutfi Laham.

"The message of the feast of Easter is of redemption, freedom, joy and happiness, peace and stability," Patriarch Laham said. "Our people are looking for a genuine Easter so that our country can rejoice in peace and happiness."

On Sunday, the army lifted the blanket curfew it had imposed Friday on the Gaza Strip.

Curfews also lifted in most of the West Bank, although residents of about a dozen towns and refugee camps remained confined to their homes, the army said.

Palestinians again were allowed to resume their jobs inside Israel, but only if they had special army travel permits.

The Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built over the sites where tradition holds Christ was crucified and buried, is the focus of Easter week celebrations.

It was especially busy holiday because while the Latin churches were celebrating Easter Sunday, the Orthodox rites marked their Palm Sunday. The Orthodox, observing the Julian calendar, will observe Easter next Sunday.

Patriarch Sabbah led worship-

ers, each carrying a single beeswax candle, in a celebratory procession around the brass and marble sepulcher in the centre of the church.

At one point, Patriarch Sabbah's procession had to pause while Armenian Orthodox paraded into the church for their Palm Sunday rites.

The visiting Russian Orthodox patriarch of Moscow, Alexii II, joined Greek Patriarch Diodoros II in Palm Sunday prayers at the church.

Patriarch Sabbah, in a long pink robe, marched with clergy through the wind-swept cobbled alleys of the walled old city sacred to Christians, Jews and Muslims.

The church's Muslim doorkeeper, Wajeh Nusseibeh, said less than a thousand worshippers were there, compared with 4,000 in the years before the Palestinian uprising erupted in the occupied territories. The uprising is now in its fourth year.

Christian pilgrims said they were celebrating a time of togetherness.

"I'll treasure this forever. I think people should come regardless," said Stephen Harrison, 21, a U.S. soldier from Washington, serving with peacekeeping forces in Sinai.

He and his comrades stared in awe at the traditional tomb in the centre of the majestic church and some kissed the stone of anointment where Jesus' body was prepared for burial.

Some pilgrims were confused by the hodge-podge of priests in multi-coloured robes marching in procession to commemorate the resurrection while hymns echoed in the domed church.

The Greek Orthodox and the Armenians carried plants. Easter Sunday for them and most resident Palestinians comes next Sunday.

Israeli soldiers and children milled outside the fourth century church on the sunny, warm day.

"I didn't feel uncomfortable. Actually I feel better seeing soldiers around. At the Mount of Olives we got stones thrown at our car," said George McEachern, 40, of Toronto, Canada.

"This is the holiest city in the world, but there is such strife here. I do have hope. I pray for peace," he said.

### Papal appeal

In the Vatican, Pope John Paul II in his Easter Sunday message hit out at the death and destruction of the Gulf war, condemned oppression of peoples in the Mid-

## Palestinian doctor reports Israeli abuse in occupied territories

A NOTED PALESTINIAN urologist, arrested at the end of the Gulf war on suspicion of preparing leaflets endangering state security, said he was physically abused during interrogation.

Dr. Mamoud Acker, 47, who practises at Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem, was arrested Feb. 27 and kept in the Ramallah military government complex until March 25.

In a public statement from prison, through his attorney, Jonathan Kurttab, Acker said he had suffered "isolation, sleep deprivation and threats."

Kurttab said Acker told him he had been deprived of sleep for 60 consecutive hours periods, and had been handcuffed behind his back, with a sack over his head in a tiny cell.

"When it was presumed to solve the tensions between the peoples by war, the power of death," the pontiff said, speaking from the red-draped central balcony of St Peter's Basilica.

"I address myself to you, the leaders of nations. Only upon an international order in which law and freedom are indivisible for all can the society we all hope for be founded," he said.

"Lend an ear, humanity of our time, to the long-neglected aspiration of oppressed peoples, such as the Palestinians, the Lebanese, the Kurds," he said.

The Polish-born pontiff delivered his twice-yearly "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) message after celebrating an open-air Easter mass in the square under a cold grey sky.

He then wished the world a happy Easter in 54 languages including Arabic, Urdu, Tamil, Swahili, Ukrainian and Albanian.

Albania on Sunday held its first multi-party elections after more than four decades of hardline Stalinist rule and its Christian community, persecuted by the communists, celebrated Easter in the domed church.

Several hundred people, mainly Filipinos and Indians with a scattering of Westerners and allied servicemen and women, had filed Kuwait City's only Roman Catholic church for the service.

On worshipper, a woman soldier wearing combat fatigues, rested her M-16 rifle against the pew as she knelt down and prayed in the large, sparsely-decorated church.

"We should thank the Lord for granting to this region the gift of

ways to conflict resolution.

During the war, he was one of seven Palestinians who signed a stinging attack on European Community for supporting the U.S. in the Gulf war and for offering more aid to Israel, for damage suffered in missile attacks, than it was offering Palestinians, — The Jerusalem Post.

### Amnesty report

Israeli media had quoted official Israeli sources as saying he was being interrogated in relation to disturbances, the issuing of leaflets hostile to the authorities and contacts with illegal organisations.

Dr. Acker is known for having publicly promoted dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis aiming at a peaceful solution to their conflict. He has contributed such views in newspaper articles and meetings.

He has also been active with the Association of Israeli-Palestinian Physicians for Human Rights, set up in March 1988 to focus on the medical aspects of human rights violations in the occupied territories.

Acker, who is close to leading Palestinian activist Faisal Husseini, has frequently addressed Israeli groups and organisations in behalf of coexistence.

"He should be released immediately and unconditionally if that is the case," Amnesty International said.

The organisation said if there was evidence suggesting Dr. Acker had been involved in violence, this should be produced and he should be given an adequate opportunity to challenge his detention, including by having prompt access to lawyers.

In recent months several Palestinian figures known for their public promotion of a peaceful solution to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict have been arrested. They include Dr. Ahmad Al Yazi, another physician active with the Association of Israeli-Palestinian Physicians for Human Rights, who was given a one-year "administrative detention" order in November 1990.

## Explosion rocks Kuwait City on Easter

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's tiny Christian community celebrated Easter Sunday but a nearby mine blast was a noisy reminder of the Gulf war and the seven-month Iraqi occupation.

The Easter service had just ended when allied soldiers, sweeping the mine-littered Kuwait shoreline, detonated an Iraqi mine in a controlled explosion, rocking the church.

Several hundred people, mainly Filipinos and Indians with a scattering of Westerners and allied servicemen and women, had filed Kuwait City's only Roman Catholic church for the service.

On worshipper, a woman soldier wearing combat fatigues, rested her M-16 rifle against the pew as she knelt down and prayed in the large, sparsely-decorated church.

"We should thank the Lord for granting to this region the gift of

peace," the priest said in his sermon. "Praise the Lord for helping us during the past months of captivity."

Kuwait's pre-war foreign population of more than a million included many Christians from the Philippines, Sri Lanka, India, Lebanon, Egypt and Western countries.

Most fled after last August's Iraqi invasion and the Christian community dropped to a few thousand.

## Shifting roles of Israeli army make it difficult for its chief

By Allyn Fisher  
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — During Dan Shomron's four years in command of the Israeli army, his soldiers spent most of their time fighting stone-throwing children in the occupied territories.

Iraqi missiles fell on Israeli cities in the Gulf war, but Israel stayed out of the conflict at Washington's request.

"I don't feel any great sorrow," Lieutenant-General Shomron said about ending his tour as chief of staff Monday and turning the job over to Ehud Barak.

Gen. Shomron, 54, made his name leading the rescue of hijacked hostages from Entebbe, Uganda, in 1976. His frustrations mirror the changing image of Israeli soldiers from the heroes of wars and daring missions to a force primarily involved in policing the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Motivation remains extremely high despite the changing role, and Israel's troops have the best in high-tech weaponry. Most guerrilla infiltrators are killed or captured well before reaching their targets.

The public has shaken off its blind trust in the army and demands explanations when things go wrong. Military censorship has been relaxed, so more dirty laundry gets washed in public.

Israel's revered air force is convulsed by a scandal involving millions of dollars pocketed by a brigadier general from improper dealings with U.S.

army suppliers. The offender, Rami Dotan, is serving a 13-year prison term.

Hirsch Goodman, a military analyst and editor of the English-language Jerusalem weekly, said the case "cost the army a public sense of its sanctity."

Some commanders say the army is subject to closer scrutiny than in the days when Israel fought for its "existence."

When Gen. Shomron took over in 1987, he intended to reduce the bureaucracy and focus his limited resources on rebuilding a "small, smart army" that could implement Israel's hallowed doctrine of carrying the battle swiftly into enemy territory. Eight months later, the Palestinian uprising began. Money had to be diverted from weapons projects to paying for extra reservists to police the occupation, and research concentrated on developing new riot-control equipment.

There were agonising trials of soldiers who beat protesters to death. The soldiers claimed to be acting on orders, but their commanders denied it.

To the public, the trials suggested lack of leadership and unwillingness to take responsibility for actions.

"Fighting against women, children; when an army gets into a situation like that, it is a real problem," Gen. Shomron conceded this month on Israel Radio.

He takes credit for resisting pressure from political hardliners to apply even greater force

against the Palestinians. The general said he learned a lot from Vietnam about what happens when an army loses support at home.

"I did the best I could to keep our ethics intact," he said.

In the Gulf war, Israel suppressed its eye-for-an-eye instincts and absorbed 18 missile attacks without retaliating.

The policy won international praise, but left Israelis feeling vulnerable and dispirited by the experience of sitting at home in gas masks, powerless to do more than pray.

Gen. Shomron has said "our fingers were itching," but also argues it was wise to stay out of the war and that Israel "gained" because Iraq, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — were "weakened."

Now the public is upset again, this time by allegations that many of the gas masks distributed on Gen. Shomron's orders were substandard.

He denies the charges but also insists that, with its limited budget, the army must give priority to developing new tanks rather than better gas masks.

"The real threat we face is an invasion by ground forces backed by airplanes," he said. "If that ever happened, everyone would forget about even discussing threats from Scuds."

Summing up, military analyst Avi Benyahu wrote in the daily Al Hamishar: "Our outgoing chief of staff has faced some dark times, a particularly difficult period for Israel."

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iraqis continue to flee to Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian official said Saturday that 45,000 Iraqis fleeing the unrest in their country had escaped to Iran, and that many of them were suffering from starvation or acute malnutrition, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. Ahmad Hussein, described by IRNA as only an "interior ministry official," said that many of the refugees, who continue to stream across the border into Iran, were under medical care. IRNA quoted him as saying that 4,000 expatriates from Iraq had also arrived in Iran. International organisations affiliated with the United Nations have agreed to grant \$3 million to Iran for every 100,000 refugees housed there. IRNA quoted Mr. Hussein as saying. He added that Kuwait had given \$10 million in compensation to Iran for Iranians who fled the emirate after the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion. IRNA said that a number of expatriates in Iraq had converged on the Iran-Iraq border, and were awaiting permission to enter Iran.

### Ships rescue Sri Lankan vessel

Riyadh (AP) — Three U.S. and two British ships sped to the rescue of a Sri Lankan merchant vessel Friday night to put out fires in her engineering spaces and her superstructure, the U.S. central command reported. Minor injuries were reported to three Sri Lankan crewmen. They were transferred from the merchant vessel, the Mercs-Horana, to the British frigate, HMS Brilliant, for treatment and were reported in stable condition. The Mercs-Horana reported a fire while travelling in the southern Arabian Gulf. The U.S. navy frigate, USS Francis Hammond, arrived on the scene 30 minutes after a call for assistance was made, joining the HMS Brilliant and the British motor vessel, SS Victoria. Officials from the Francis Hammond reported fires in the engineering spaces of the Mercs-Horana and said that her superstructure was engulfed in flames. A six-man firefighting team was sent from the Francis Hammond to the merchant ship via small boat to join teams from the Brilliant and Victoria. Later, more firefighters joined the all-night effort and put the fires out after nearly 11 hours. Two other U.S. navy ships, the USS Shasta and the USS Niagara Falls, responded firefighting foam and other equipment by helicopter. The Mercs-Horana was taken under tow by the HMS Brilliant and will be towed to Bahrain.

### Turkish foreign minister to visit Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemoçin starts a three-day visit to Romania Monday to boost bilateral ties and regional cooperation in the Balkans and around the Black Sea. "We are going to look for and find a way to intensify our bilateral relations... we are concerned with bilateral relations, with Balkan cooperation and, in a broader sense, with European construction," Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase was quoted by the state news agency Rompress as saying. He said the two countries planned to discuss reviving a pre-communist friendship agreement dating from 1933. Rompress said the talks would also cover Turkey's proposals to create a zone of economic cooperation around the Black Sea involving Turkey, the Soviet Union, Romania and Bulgaria.

### Rebels claim killing 2,400 Ethiopia troops

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels who control large areas of northern Ethiopia said at the weekend their forces had killed 2,400 government troops and shot down a MiG-23 fighter plane in operations north of the Red Sea port of Asab. Another 500 government troops were wounded, and 100 were captured, said the voice of the broad masses of Eritrea radio. The radio report, monitored in Nairobi, said Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) forces had achieved "brilliant victories" in fighting which continued until late Friday. The report also said a naval force of the EPLF had attacked five government naval vessels, putting one out of action, while the government ships were transporting supplies to the Dahlak Islands in the Red Sea. Ethiopian state radio had earlier announced that the Ethiopian air force had destroyed a rebel force trying to attack the port of Asab from the sea. It said the rebel attack was launched from the small port of Tiyo, north of Asab. The state radio did not refer to the land battle reported by the rebels. The rebels already control the port of Masawa, north of Asab, which they captured early last year. They have recently launched a new offensive apparently aimed at cutting off Asab to leave Ethiopia with no outlet to a deep sea port.

### Rushdie's wife says they are to divorce

LONDON (AP) — American writer Marianne Wiggins, the wife of Salman Rushdie, said in a newspaper interview Sunday that the couple are divorcing because of what she called ideological differences. Mr. Rushdie, 43, has been in hiding under police guard since Feb. 14, 1989 when Iran's former leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, urged Muslims to kill Rushdie for his book "The Satanic Verses." Khomeini died in June 1989 but subsequent Iranian leaders issued a order for Rushdie to be killed still stands. The daughter of a Scots-Irish father and Greek mother, Ms. Wiggins, 43, grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She married Rushdie in January, 1988. Each had been married before with one child apiece. The couple went into hiding together, but in August 1989 Ms. Wiggins issued a statement saying they had separated in July, 1989. The weekly London newspaper the Sunday Times on Sunday quoted Ms. Wiggins as saying in the interview: "The last conversation I had with him was on Feb. 14 when I rang him just to recognise the passing of the anniversary of the fatwa." The Sunday Times reported that the divorce will be uncontested and there will be no financial settlement, since "as a feminist" Wiggins does not believe in being supported by an ex-husband. The paper gave no other details about the ideological differences but quoted her as saying: "The great fallacy he committed was to think he was the issue. He never was. The issues were free expression and the right to speak. What he's been speaking for during the past two years is Salman Rushdie's career." It said Ms. Wiggins accused her husband of never once speaking out in the past two years for any of the hundreds of other persecuted writers around the world.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Al-Bashir, J. Asturach ..... 77511/26

Army, Marika ..... 89161/15

Queen Alia Hospital ..... 06924050

## JPA board elects treasurer, secretary-general

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) board, which was elected on March 22, held its first meeting Sunday, under the chairmanship of its president, Hashem Khrisat, and elected a treasurer and a secretary-general as well as a deputy president.

A statement at the end of the meeting said that the deputy president is Abdul Hafiz Mohammad while the secretary-general is Omar Abarda. Fakhr Abu Hamdeh retains his post as treasurer. Ali Abu Tabanbeh and Suleiman Barwawi were elected deputies to the treasurer and secretary-general.

The statement said that a disciplinary council of three members had been set up, and a committee to take decisions in new association members had been formed.

Another committee, set up Sunday, is the Health Insurance Committee, according to the statement which said that the association board had decided to hold weekly meetings on Mondays.

Khrisat was elected JPA president unopposed for the second consecutive term. He can no more nominate himself for another term according to the JPA constitution. Of the nine member group, three who represent owners of local press magazines and newspapers were elected unopposed while the remaining six members were elected by vote at the March 22 meeting.

**Huge, glassy crater outside Amman baffles scientists**

By Ica Wabbel  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A new discovery in Jordan, near Qasr Al Jilat, some 100 kilometres south east of Amman, in the middle of the desert, is bewildering the scientific community here and giving way to speculation of the most spectacular kind. The "discovery," over which a shepherd grazing his sheep actually stumbled, is a huge crater, of about 600 metres diameter, with a perfectly rounded rim and completely devoid of vegetation.

The most interesting thing about it, though, is the glassy aspect of the "crater." The sand was totally vitrified, making scientists believe that it must have happened under great pressure and very high temperatures, something similar to the holes left by falling meteorites, but "under more accented heat and pressure," said Olaf Trikenson, professor of volcanology and meteorological studies at the University of Reykjavik in Iceland, who is currently visiting the country.

"It is nothing like a volcano, and very little like a meteorite trace," he said. "I could say it is a U.S. landing pad if I didn't know there had been no sightings of unidentified flying objects in Jordan," he added.

According to other scientists who have been to the site, there is "no life, nor vegetation" on the odd patch. Their opinions are varied, ranging from "ancient settlement that has disappeared because of radiation" (no track of any sort of rays have been found so far), hence the melting of sand and its glassy touch, to "UFOs and to move down to earth volcano residue of a most interesting and unprecedented sort."

Dr. Trikenson said that he has already contacted his department at the university asking for a larger team to study this phenomenon and propose explanations for its origin. Jordanian officials meanwhile are sending their own group to investigate, and the team is likely to report back on their findings to Amman today.

**Art exhibition to be opened**

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Wajid Ali an embroidery and handicrafts exhibition will be opened Thursday, April 4, at Alia Art Gallery.

Ten per cent of the proceeds of the exhibition, which will last till April 12, will be donated to supporting the Palestinian intifada.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday tours the southern regions affected by the rainstorm (Petra photo)

## Electricity network completely restored in Karak Governorate

KARAK (J.T.) — The Karak district Electricity Authority announced Sunday the restoration of power supply to all areas within the governorate of Karak and said all networks had been repaired and lines reconnected.

A spokesman for the authority here said that high voltage supply had been resumed to Aiy, Ghof Safi, Sal Karak and Mutah, all areas affected by the rainstorm and the floods in the past week.

Authority sources said that even the remote areas of these regions had their power supply back.

Electricity along with telephones, road communication, and other services were disrupted by the storm and teams from various ministries had been at work over the past week to restore life to normal and resume services to the public.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh was quoted as saying that it would take three weeks to restore road communications, but up to three months to rebuild the damaged bridges.

Karak was the governorate

worst hit, in the south, and the minister is preparing a full report about the extent of the damages and the help for the farmers, to be submitted to the Cabinet.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday toured Karak, Maan and Tafilah, the three worst affected regions, and inspected the stricken areas.

At the same time, teams from the ministries of public works, the municipal and rural affairs and the environment, agriculture and water and irrigation are going ahead with plans to restore life to these areas.

A spokesman for the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) in the Karak region said that a corporation committee had embarked on a wide study of agricultural projects that have been financed by the ACC.

The spokesman said that the study was needed before the ACC would decide on assistance to the farmers who incurred losses and on the question of rescheduling the farmers' loans.

The spokesman said that the ACC would also look into the

prospect of helping farmers carry out maintenance and restoration work to their projects.

Secretary General of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), Dr. Abdul Aziz Wishah, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the rainstorm had caused severe damages to irrigation canals in the southern Jordan Valley region as well as to dams and canals.

He said that the JVA had prepared an emergency plan to carry out repair work, and its programmes would be completed by Wednesday. Officials from the Ministry of Education visited Karak schools in order to estimate the extent of damages inflicted on them. At the moment, students and scouts from Karak Governorate are involved in an all-out effort to remove mud and rocks from schools and conduct other voluntary work.

Teams and officials involved in the repair and restoration work within the three governorates were urged by Prince Hassan to coordinate their efforts and speed up work.

The spokesman said that the ACC would also look into the

## Port authorities report revived activity

QAQABA (J.T.) — Despite harassment imposed by U.S. and allied naval forces on cargo vessels heading for Aqaba, the port authorities Sunday reported an upsurge in the number of ships docking in the port.

For the first time since the start of the Gulf crisis, the port authorities reported the arrival there of a total 18 vessels carrying food supplies and other merchandise ordered by Jordanian merchants.

Ports Corporation Director General Awad Tal said in a statement that 18 vessels carrying meat, frozen meat, barley flour,

tea as well as containers laden with various goods arrived in the port over the past two days alone.

It was only last week that the U.S.-led naval forces turned back a cargo vessel laden with goods imported from northern Europe. The ship was intercepted and directed towards an Egyptian port.

A statement by the Jordan National Shipping Lines (JNSL) said that the vessel was ordered to stop for search and inspection and later ordered to head for Suez, in Egypt, for proper inspection of the containers.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Regent congratulates Iran

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday sent a cable to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani congratulating him on the republic's day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Iranian people further progress and prosperity.

#### Prince Mohammad condoles families

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Sunday delegated the director of his office to convey his condolences to Al Abbasi and Al Daoud family, over the death of Nafisah Yousef Daoud, mother of Mr. Daoud Mohammad Suleiman.

#### Jordan, Morocco discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Sunday discussed with the Moroccan Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Al Taher Banani bilateral relations and cooperation in the parliamentary field.

#### Minister visits Maan, Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — Social Development Minister Yousef Al Athem Sunday continued his inspection tour of the Maan Governorate and visited Aqaba district, where he met with Aqaba District Governor Oufan Al Majali and reviewed with him the social services in the district. Mr. Athem stressed the importance of opening new social development centres in the badia (desert) region and of increasing the volume of aid given to the needy. Mr. Majali briefed the minister on the losses inflicted on private property as a result of the heavy rainfall. The minister then paid a visit to the voluntary societies in the district.

#### Abu Taleb thanks for aid to People's Army

AMMAN (Petra) — The Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb thanked the University of Jordan for its contribution of JD 8,184 to the People's Army. In a letter addressed to the University President Mahmoud Al Samra, Gen. Abu Taleb voiced his pride in appreciation of the university staff for their noble national feelings. Abu Taleb also sent a similar letter to the director general of the Jordan Bank, thanking him for the bank's contribution of JD 6,133 to the People's Army. Gen. Abu Taleb sent a third letter to Director General of the Ports Corporation Awad Al Taleb thanking him and the corporation's staff for their contribution of JD 14,391 in support of the People's Army.

#### Ministry allocates sum for road

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Public Works has allocated JD 150,000 to continue work on maintaining and improving Deir Abi Said-Yousef Al Hamam road in Koura district. The district Governor Aref Abu Karaki said work on this road would resume this summer after floating the necessary tender.

## Jordan silent on GCC decision; PLO official blasts suspension of aid

By Ghadeer Taber  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan officially remained silent Sunday on the decision by the Gulf states to suspend financial assistance to the Kingdom while the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) harshly criticised the move.

Jordanian officials refused to comment on the statements by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara but privately they say the move was not a surprise and would not affect the country greatly.

Officials conceded that relations with the Gulf states were tainted with mistrust but do not expect the Gulf states to maintain such a posture for a very long time and feel confident that at least for this year the country has received enough emergency assistance to cope with the cut in Gulf aid.

Parliamentarian and former minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said the GCC statement was "nothing new" and that the Gulf states had already begun "decreasing their financial aid to Jordan when the Kingdom initiated its democratic process... It is a penalty for democratisation in the country."

The GCC — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates — said it was suspending aid to Jordan when the Kingdom initiated its democratic process... It is a penalty for democratisation in the country.

No forgiveness, no forgetting," Mr. Bishara, a Kuwaiti, said in announcing the halt in aid. The announcement was only a reaffirmation of an earlier unannounced decision to suspend

aid. Jordan and the PLO have not received any assistance from the Gulf states since the August 2 invasion of Kuwait for their sympathetic position towards Iraq in the crisis.

PLO official Mohammad Milhem said Sunday the "Palestinian struggle is not for sale" and that the "timing of Mr. Bishara's statement was counterproductive at a time when Arab League representatives are meeting in Cairo to heal rifts and repair strained relations caused by the crisis."

Jordanian officials refused to disclose the amount of aid suspended but the GCC states have long been the PLO's main financial backers and have also provided millions of dollars to Jordan as a frontline state with Israel.

The crisis caused a deep schism in the Arab World between the anti-Iraq camp, led by the Gulf states, Egypt and Syria, and those opposed to the allied war — Jordan, PLO, Sudan and Yemen.

"It is a time for reconciliation and reconsideration of all our positions and not a time for such statements... we have to think differently and stop talking about money and funds and concentrate on the real dangers," Mr. Milhem said.

Mr. Bishara, referring to the PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat during the crisis, said: "Mr. Arafat took a very reckless course of action and will have to bear the consequences."

Mr. Arafat, analysts argue, could not take an anti-Iraq or a clear-cut pro-Kuwait stand because he would have risked his political career in light of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's popularity among the Palestinians.

The PLO position was correct politically — against occupation of territory by force and against denying the Kuwaiti people their right to self-determination — but we could not highlight the official position for political reasons," said Palestine National Council

(PNC) member Assad Abdul Rahman.

"Palestinians sided with Iraq because it was against the U.S. Arafat and the leadership would have lost a great deal if they had taken a position contrary to the mood of the masses. This is politics," he added.

The GCC secretary-general refused to disclose the amount of aid suspended but the GCC states have long been the PLO's main financial backers and have also provided millions of dollars to Jordan as a frontline state with Israel.

Jordan, officially neutral, but publicly sympathetic towards Iraq and against the allied war, will lose an estimated \$400 to \$500 million annually, Jordanian sources said.

According to PLO officials, of the \$1.5 billion in Arab contributions the PLO has received since 1979, \$1 billion came from the Gulf states, but Mr. Milhem described the amount as "peanuts" compared to what the Gulf states paid for the war.

"Since the start of the revolution, the Gulf states have given the PLO peanuts compared to the money they poured into the war treasury to destroy both Iraq and Kuwait... Mr. Milhem said. He said the PLO was in a "very difficult" financial position, but "thanks to increased contributions to UNRWA (U.N. Relief and Works Agency) by the European Community and Japan, obligations to Palestinian refugees camps continue to be met."

Jordanian economist Fuad Fanek, echoing the view of officials and average Jordanians, said the Gulf states would not punish Jordan indefinitely. When emotions calm down,

the Gulf states will realise that it is in their best interest and security to have a strong and stable Jordan... It will take time," Mr. Fanek told the Jordan Times.

Jordan, which has a staggering \$8 billion foreign debt, has lost, according to U.N. estimates, 30 per cent of its gross national product in 1990 and will lose 50 per cent in 1991 in the form of exports, higher oil prices, expatriate remittances, transit charges.

But economists say emergency soft loans and grants from the European Community and Japan, totalling about \$900 million, will cushion the economic blow this year, but warn that the country will have to take harsh solutions to cope with the next few years.

A front page commentary in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, accusing the Gulf leaders of having a "loan shark mentality," said the Gulf states "are wrong; they are mistaken because they are condescending... blind to the facts, ignorant of people's qualities and with nothing on their minds except money, money, money..."

"Jordan, which knows where it stood yesterday, where it stands today and where it will stand tomorrow, does not need the aid of brothers. Not because Jordan is a rich and strong country... but because its stands emanate from the depth of its national commitment which it will not change or abandon," the commentator signed by the editor, said.

Sarcastically thanking the Gulf states for their assistance, Al Ra'i said: "Take your money Gulf brethren and may God keep you happy with your money... so you will be able to fund your patrons in Washington and London with your billions of dollars."

## ACC to grant loans to boost agriculture

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) is willing to offer long term loans to citizens wishing to finance agricultural industries or to cultivate land and produce crops to help the country ensure food security, according to Mansur Ben Tarif, ACC director general.

Ben Tarif referred to the situation in the southern regions of Jordan, affected by the recent rainstorm, and said that farmers in those regions could apply for loans because they need the money for repair and for resuming farming work.

According to Ben Tarif, the ACC plans complement those of the Ministry of Agriculture, which has been directing farmers attention to the production of wheat in larger quantities due to the growing demand of this commodity.

"Settlement of loans in this case could start after the project has begun production and the beneficiary started selling products," Ben Tarif explained in his statement to Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The ACC director said that the plan aimed at encouraging citizens to initiate agricultural industries so that the surplus vegetables and fruits could be processed and sold around the year to the local markets and other countries.

Since the beginning of 1991, Ben Tarif said, the ACC has granted loans to farmers, totalling JD 1.25 million, but the ACC has much more allocations, amounting to nearly JD 8 million, earmarked for loans during 1991; therefore the door is open for any

investor or farmer to benefit from these facilities.

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Ben Tarif said that the improved seeds had been sown on 32,000 dunums in Madaba district alone. He said that other areas too were trying the improved seeds, especially in the Jordan Valley region.

We saw about 50 captured Iraqi jeeps, 10 tanks and half a dozen artillery pieces on the Zakho-Dohuk road, but the Kurds had been unable to move them for 10 days," he said.

A Turkish newspaper reported Sunday that Turkish security forces entered Iraq Friday, chasing Turkish Kurdish guerrillas. The report in the Istanbul daily Hurriyet was denied by Premier Yildirim Akbulut.

The newspaper had said 11 Marxist guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party were killed in a clash in southeastern Turkey which spilled over into Iraq when the rebels tried to escape.

A Turkish newspaper reported Sunday that Kurdish rebels talked of setting up a provisional government in "liberated" Kurdistan. Now they paint a picture of bombardment by Iraqi forces, deteriorating living conditions and mass flight by civilians.

Izzat Ibrahim, the deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi armed forces, told President Saddam Sunday that Erbil was fully

under government control, Radio Baghdad said.

"Today Iraqi forces attacked the towns of Erbil and Dohuk with air and artillery shelling. Helicopter gunships, fixed-wing aircraft and multiple rocket launchers were used indiscriminately," said the KDP's Zebari.

A Western correspondent just back from northern Iraq said the Kurds were handicapped by loose coordination and difficulties in making use of captured heavy weapons.



## Economy on path to full recovery

By Debbie Lovatt  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Despite the heavy beating every sector of Jordan's economy has taken from the Gulf crisis, economic analysts are confident and optimistic that full recovery can and will, be achieved.

On the surface, however, the immediate picture is bleak: Jordan has lost its main export market in Iraq and the Gulf states, tourism has dried up, unemployment has soared, remittances from expatriates have greatly declined, and oil supplies have been disrupted causing Jordan to import oil paid for in cash from Syria and Yemen rather than receive it from Iraq at a reduced rate in payment for debts. In addition, the country was flooded with returnees and refugees from the war theatre.

With the United Nations imposition and enforcement of international sanctions on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait, Jordan's main export market was lost. Jordan could no longer rely on Iraq to represent its main market and was forced to look elsewhere for an outlet for its products. "We took it as a challenge and we are now exporting more goods to east and west Europe and Africa," said Dr. Ibrahim Badran, secretary general for the Ministry of Industry and Trade. In a way, economists say, the force majeure galvanized some exporters who might otherwise have taken little interest in exporting to places other than Iraq.

Imports were also affected by the zealous enforcement of sanctions by U.S.-led allies — Jordan-bound ships were harassed and war risk insurance premium rocketed.

The down side of this was that as importing became more difficult and less economically viable, manufacturing industries ran low on vital raw materials making a finished product for export unachievable. The positive side, however, was that Jordan unwittingly found it was gradually achieving one

of the aims of the adjustment programme agreed upon by Jordan two years ago with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund: a reduction in imports.

The tourist trade halted as travel companies cancelled trips to the region due to fears that Jordan would be embroiled in war and that Westerners would be less than welcome because of the political situation. A Ministry of Tourism report released in February this year estimates the loss in tourism receipts for the seven-month crisis period at JD 176.5 million.

Tourism promotion efforts are underway in Scandinavia, Italy, Germany and Spain for 1991. "These countries have always been a strong market and tend to lead the way in tourism," said a senior official at the ministry.

At the same time, domestic tourism will grow as "more people are expected to be spending their holidays in Jordan rather than Europe or America this year due to the problems with the economy, and hotels in Aqaba are already full for the Eid and Easter," said the tourism official striking an optimistic note.

Of all the problems the Gulf crisis left in its wake, the most visible is unemployment. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates the unemployment rate to be at least 20 per cent. Independent analysts believe this is a conservative figure and estimate the rate to be closer to 30 per cent.

As the economy struggled to absorb the multi-faceted impact of the Gulf crisis, many people found themselves out of work. "Companies reduced working hours and staff, and production dropped to a third, or a quarter, of its pre-crisis level," said Dr. Badran.

"The government is encouraging investors and entrepreneurs to set up their own businesses. The (Industry and Trade) Ministry offers free advice, and loan facilities can be arranged through banks and

other financial institutions," said the secretary general.

Dr. Saleh Khasawneh, secretary general of the Labour Ministry, said: "Morale remains high. Businessmen and employees are aware of what is going on and many workers have taken a cut in wages. This is illegal, but we turn a blind eye to it as it is the logical thing to do; so we don't intervene. We hope this situation is short term and that it will soon clear up and go back to normal."

Steps are being taken to reduce the number of illegal foreign workers in Jordan to enable employers to offer job priority to Jordanians.

Dr. Khasawneh explained that "if foreign workers, for example Egyptians, who were taking a low wage leave the country and are replaced by Jordanians and they take the same low wage we don't intervene. We leave things to market forces. Wages may vary. But we do encourage fair wages."

The return of nearly a quarter of a million expatriates led to a huge reduction in remittances and put an extra burden on an already strained economy. "It is too early to tell how much has actually been lost through remittances. Due to the war no-one was transferring money," Dr. Khasawneh said.

Jordanians returning from Iraq and Kuwait in particular are not only compounding the problem of unemployment, but also contributing to rising poverty in the country.

Until the political situation clarifies it will not be possible to know whether returnees are planning to stay in Jordan or live elsewhere. "Many people have not made up their minds yet whether to stay," said Dr. Badran.

Aid agencies have been over-stretched to extend help to all those now in need. Expatriate workers used to send money to less well-off relatives. The return of family members and the end of an

income for themselves and their relatives has pushed struggling families immediately "below the poverty line," according to UNICEF.

The first casualty of poverty is a proper balanced diet and a reduced ability to pay doctors' fees or costs of medicine.

UNICEF cites horrifying stories of family members taking it in turns to eat — one day the father and boys eat, the next day the mother and girls eat. Schoolteachers talk of listless pupils unable to concentrate in class as they have not eaten well for days.

Pregnant and breast-feeding women are unable to offer the best start in life for their unborn and newly born children without a proper diet. Doctors report more miscarriages and underweight births than prior to Aug. 2 and anaemia is high.

In short, according to UNICEF's regional director for the Middle East and North Africa, Richard Reid, "what the Gulf crisis has done to Jordan is make it instantly a less developed country from a middle income country."

Yet, officials remain optimistic that the Kingdom will recover its former strength and go beyond it. "I am sure we have the capability to overcome the present difficulties," said Dr. Badran, the Minister of Industry and Trade Secretary General.

Dr. Badran feels that "the Gulf crisis has created a feeling that people have to work and produce more, save more and consume less. The crisis has also developed the understanding that unemployment cannot be handled except through increased production at all levels."

Regardless of how optimistic and capable Jordan is of working hard to overcome the present economic setback, the adverse effects of such a sudden disruption in a country's development are bound to stay in society for a long time.

In the words of Dr. Badran, even though the Gulf crisis has been "so damaging, Jordan has to stand up to the challenge."



Veiled women gather en masse at Abdullah ibn Al Hussein Mosque in Amman in January to donate to Iraq's cause (File photo)

## The veil and the east: What it means and why women wear it

By Leila Hassanin

IN STARK contrast to the once fashionable miniskirt, Egyptian women today appear everywhere in the veil. Nor is the phenomenon limited to Egypt alone. It produced political upheaval in France when Muslim girls wore the hejab and long dresses to school.

France, the home of liberty, fraternity and equality, waged a fierce attack on those girls and their families to prevent them from applying their religious beliefs to their personal lives on the grounds that the French educational system is secular.

The emergence of what is called Islamic fundamentalism — seemingly strengthened by events in the Gulf — has also provoked further debate on the issue.

Indeed, the veil in modern times has been subjected to extended analysis, sympathy and criticism. In the West, it is seen as part of a reactionary trend, particularly by those who support women's liberation.

On a broader front, it is regarded as an anti-secularist feature of fundamentalism, a tide of religious fanaticism that is sweeping over the region and destroying attempts to modernise Arab society.

Since the mid 1970s, Egypt has witnessed a marked increase in public expressions of religious mores and there has been a great deal of speculation as to the political, economic and social reasons for this.

Egypt over the past decade and a half has gone through a far-reaching socioeconomic change that has had a profound effect on the lives of its citizens. Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians migrated to the oil rich Gulf area in the hope of acquiring commodities that are perceived as a sign of modernisation and a Western middle-class lifestyle.

Conspicuous wealth cropped up over night and is ostentatiously displayed by those who have it.

The results have not all been good. There has been a widening of the gap separating the "haves" from the "have-nots," fueling feelings of deprivation and malcontent. The emphasis on materialism also has rocked the traditional foundations of Egyptian society, including ideology, security and a general acceptance of what life offers.

To regain this lost contentment and to fight the feelings of alienation many people re-emphasise religious bonds.

So do young, educated women in Egypt wear the veil?

The reasons are many. Some do it out of religious duty. Islam prescribes a female dress that deemphasises a woman's attractiveness. For some women, then, the veil is regarded as protection from male harassment in modern life's daily encounters.

It is argued by some that the veil, besides being a religious obligation, has also an economic advantage for lower-middle and middle-class women who cannot compete in or afford a consumption-oriented lifestyle. Conservative dress — including the veil — is a way to dress oneself decently without having to spend a great deal of money.

Although this reasoning does not apply generally, many women may be searching for happiness and deeper values through a more thorough application of religious codes.

Two knowledgeable Western women, formally known for following the latest trends, recently surprised friends and acquaintances by donning the veil.

Why?

Said one of them: "At first,

these veiled women down-

stairs, who even covered their faces, were an object of amusement to me and my sister.

Curiosity was the reason for occasional short talks and visits

to the neighbours. What we found was quite astonishing to us. These were women at peace with themselves and their life despite the many problems they were facing daily."

In contrast, she and her sister, both having a much higher standard of living, rarely experienced such contentment, even though they thought would bring them happiness. This discovery, they said, was for them a turning point.

An Egyptian upper-middle class woman who now wears the veil, even though neither her mother nor her grandmother did, likens Western trends in Egypt to small waves in an ocean, making their impact, but finally disappearing.

"We kept westernising for generations, but we stopped short before the sexual revolution. Maybe in the next wave we will go too far."

In the last decades, Egyptian women were faced with harsh economic conditions that spawned a growing feminist movement. The fervor of this movement, which reached its apex in the 1960 and 1970s, now faces a perplexed, confused and exhausted client. Inflation, unemployment and increased expectations are a heavy burden on modern women. They have to struggle to keep things from falling apart.

Many women work outside the home in order to fulfil some of their families' and their own ambitions. They often end up as jacks of all trades and masters of none. Nervous, exhausted and unsatisfied, they see their children neglected, their marriages strained and their houses rent.

Traditions are often too extensive to be put away, forgotten in a dark attic at the expense of a flashier, more intriguing life that beckoned from the West. Having experienced some of the psychological wear and tear of the never-ending quest for materialistic aspirations, many Egyptians are climbing to their attic and rediscovering the good old values.

This religious revival, which is in part a cultural revival, should not be labeled prematurely as reactionary and/or anti-secularist. It is an attempt to shape an indigenous cultural pattern that can be simultaneously assimilated with modern technological advances without losing a deeper, more perceptive existence.

The veil also represents a demand for a different outlook on life and living necessities. It is a sign of discontentment with the current state of affairs. These women are trying to shape in part this new society, one built on a perceived religious ideal. They should not be criticised for trying to live a life that for them is more comfortable and satisfying — Middle East Times.

## Relief

(Continued from page 1)

figures as to what vaccines are needed and how much is needed in terms of water purification material. In the meantime temperatures in Baghdad and across Iraq are rising and the threat of spreading epidemics related to a breakdown in hygienic conditions is growing by the day.

While any visitors have remarked that on the surface many parts of Baghdad seem to remain physically untouched by the allied bombings, looks can nevertheless be deceptive. In Baghdad this seems to be the case. No home has in fact remained untouched. No family unharmed, if not through death in the war then through malnutrition or the fear of disease; new-found poverty evidently threatens the Iraqi middle class. As one official puts it, "Iraq is a country of 18 million victims of war."

The economic standstill has brought about a new level of poverty, and getting the country back on the road means massive aid, which does not seem to be forthcoming. Furthermore, there is a lot of speculation as to whether Iraq will have any say over its own income and natural resources in the light of the ceasefire resolution that is being debated at the U.N.

Dr. Qaysi says he fears that the resolution would include clauses which would permanently prevent Iraq from asking for reparations from the allies for their use of excessive force against the country rendering it completely in a "pre-industrial revolution" state.

In a pessimistic note Dr. Qaysi told NGO delegates visiting Baghdad last week that he feared that Iraq's oil output, its price and actual use of the revenues would be entirely controlled by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. He added that the U.N. might even ban international courts from hearing Iraq's case if Baghdad wished to pursue the issue of excessive use of force by the allies.

The lack of total control of Iraq's own finances would only accelerate the boundless black markets already set up by sidewalk vendors all over Baghdad. Lines of up to 200 people could be seen in front of bakeries, and meat is extremely difficult to find anywhere. The lack of water seems to be even

more frightening than the shortage of food. Many neighbourhoods smell of sewage and only a small minority of the population has constant water supply.

A city that used to use 9,000 megawatts of electricity has had to do with 700 megawatts for more than two months now.

But Iraqis know that without outside help survival may be a difficult question under the present circumstances. "The U.N. resolution which will set the terms of the ceasefire may be another Treaty of Versailles and there will be nothing we can do about except sign it," Dr. Qaysi said.

Noting that Iraq was dependent on the outside world in order to repair its infrastructure, he said if the ceasefire resolution would be as bad as he feared Iraq would be in a state of "permanent human bondage."

In a final note, Dr. Qaysi told the visiting delegates that in his lifetime (he is 53) he did not expect that Iraq would recover even 10 per cent of the infrastructure capabilities that

it had up to Jan. 17. "It's not possible to imagine what happened here simply because it's unimaginable," he said.

What happened during the 42 days of war, said Dr. Qaysi, was the equivalent to a mafia killing. "The allies killed the victim and burned the corpse, so that no-one can prove there was a killing and the murderer goes free and the crime remains unsolved."

**Hammadi**

(Continued from page 1)

television speech in mid-March that his government would draft a new constitution including democratic reforms.

Dr. Hammadi referred to the March 16 speech, saying a "draft constitution... a law, a par-tisan law" already have been prepared. But he added reforms were being delayed by the rebels.

In a final note, Dr. Qaysi told the visiting delegates that in his lifetime (he is 53) he did not expect that Iraq would recover even 10 per cent of the infrastructure capabilities that

he painted a gloomy picture of Iraq's post-war economic situation but said Baghdad would deal with the situation by raising domestic production and farming.

"Now that the sectarian sedition has breathed its last breath and after its perpetrators and those behind them from outside our borders have been crowned with shame, the door has opened for the stage of reconstruction and reform," Dr. Hammadi, himself a Shiite, said in apparent reference to Iran.

Dr. Hammadi said his government "will work to take all possible and practical steps to launch the process of democratic reform."

Irqi radio also reported Saturday night that the revolutionary Command Council had declared an amnesty for members of the armed forces who "return to the national ranks in the northern part of the country."

The radio added that "any of these members who brings with him a weapon will be honoured when they report to the military units in their areas."

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## Mubarak wants Egyptians to cut outrageous consumption

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak warned Egyptians Saturday they must not expect an economic bonanza for their country's role in the Gulf crisis but would have to cut consumption instead.

"The Gulf crisis does not mean cash will start flowing to us from every direction and there will be prosperity," Mubarak told MENA. "We must work and decrease our outrageous consumption."

The Paris Club of Western creditor nations has indicated it would write off a large part of Cairo's remaining \$36 billion foreign debt if it agreed on an economic reform programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

An IMF team is in Cairo to negotiate the final details a programme economist say will entail painful austerity measures on the way to creating a market economy.

Mubarak said domestic pet-

off around \$14 billion in debt. Officials say Gulf states sent an extra \$2 billion in cash grants.

"If we have received aid we must exploit it for development," Mubarak told MENA. "We must work and decrease our outrageous consumption."

"There is no prosperity in the whole world. If we want to live an honourable life we must not rely on the outside to provide our food ... if anyone thinks otherwise he is wrong," he said after a ceremony to inaugurate Cairo's ninth Nile bridge.

Since the Gulf crisis erupted in August the United States and Egypt's Gulf allies have written

"If we receive aid or support from someone it will be to develop ourselves ... we should not think that others will throw their money at us," Mubarak said. "If that happens it will not be in the form of salaries but as projects to create work and increase production."

The 500-metre Rod Al Farag bridge which Mubarak inaugurated links two sections of a ring road being built to relieve traffic congestion in Cairo.

## U.S. attacks China for protectionism

WASHINGTON (AP) — China was sharply criticised last week by U.S. trade authorities for increased barriers to U.S. sales.

U.S. exports to China dropped by \$1 billion in 1990. The Chinese sold the United States \$10.4 billion worth of goods more than they bought. That surplus was \$4.2 billion more than in 1989.

The U.S. International Trade Commission has called attention to the surge in U.S. imports from China. It pointed out, for example, that more Chinese shoes are now being delivered in the United States than are made by the U.S. shoe industry.

The report was the 1991 edition of U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills' annual volume "Foreign Trade Barriers." It listed a series of complaints.

"The United States is concerned about the increasing number of items that China's licensing system covers, their growing economic value, and the lack of transparency with which the system is applied," it said.

It added that Chinese delays on paperwork sometimes seem to be intentional and that centralised control has raised additional barriers to foreign sales in China.

The report also charged that Chinese manufacturers pirate U.S. computer programmes.

It said U.S. authorities are concerned over China's actions under an agreement with the United States to supply launch services for space satellites at terms "on a par" with those asked by Western launchers.

"The (Chinese government's) behaviour in a competition to supply launch services to an Arab consortium and to the Indonesian telecommunications ministry has called into question China's compliance with the agreement," the report added.

## Kerkorian, unions agree on bid to buy TWA

CHICAGO (R) — Trans World Airlines' (TWA) three labour unions have reached agreement with investor Kirk Kerkorian on a bid to buy the financially-troubled carrier, a spokeswoman for the investors has said.

Jeanne Ouellette, spokeswoman for the California-based Tracinda Corp., Kerkorian's investment vehicle, told Reuters: "we are very pleased to have accepted the proposal that the labour unions have presented to us."

Aides to Kerkorian and union representatives have been meeting in St. Louis, along with civic officials, to discuss a bid. TWA has a large presence in one of its main hubs.

TWA was taken private by takeover specialist Carl Icahn in a 1988 leveraged buyout. The airline has been struggling financially. It defaulted on \$75.5 million in debt payments on Feb. 1.

"The St. Louis partnership for air service, the elected officials and the unions have put forth an extraordinary effort to preserve TWA as a strong, viable and competitive international and domestic carrier," Ouellette said.

Details of the agreement were not immediately available, but TWA's pilots, machinists and flight attendants had agreed last week to offer \$137 million in concessions to help the Los Angeles investor in his buyout effort.

He declined to pick out a specific country as the worst offender, but went on to say:

"Those on our priority watch list are Brazil, India, People's Republic of China and Thailand."

He added that another 20 countries or so are on a regular watch list.

He pointed to the Uruguay Round, the trade negotiations among 108 governments, as the best way to solve disputes between the United States and countries in Western Europe.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, March 31, 1991			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	483.2 486.1
680.0	684.0	Dutch guilder	355.6 357.7
1186.9	1194.0	Swedish crown	110.0 110.7
400.2	402.6	Italian lira (for 100)	53.8 54.1
469.9	472.7	Belgian franc (for 100)	194.0 195.2
118.3	119.0		

Previously, Kerkorian, who already owns MGM Grand Airlines, a carrier serving luxury-minded clients, had agreed to put up \$250 million cash for TWA in return for a 51 per cent stake in the carrier.

In January, Kerkorian tried unsuccessfully to bid for Pan Am Corp., which is under chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

One large hurdle facing any deal is TWA's plans to sell some key trans-Atlantic routes to American Airlines.

Details of the agreement were not immediately available, but TWA's pilots, machinists and flight attendants had agreed last week to offer \$137 million in concessions to help the Los Angeles investor in his buyout effort.

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"Within two years we would like to complete our adjustment to a market economy," Kupa told a news conference in the Hague after meeting Dutch officials and bank representatives.

"In this respect we are implementing the norms of the

European Community," Kupa, who met EC officials in Brussels before coming to the Netherlands, said without giving details.

He said he expected a five-year association agreement between Hungary and the EC would be signed this year although his country was still seeking better terms for trade in agriculture, steel and textiles.

Kupa said he hoped it would be the last association treaty before Hungary would gain entry into the 12-nation bloc.

The United Nations of India quoted him as saying.

Financial institutions worried about India's mounting foreign debt and ballooning deficits, have all but cut off lending to New Delhi, leaving few alternatives to debt rescheduling, bankers said.

Lenders have been made skittish by the resignation of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar's gov-

ernment, possibly inconclusive elections in May, and the postponement of the 1991/92 fiscal year budget (April-March) for political reasons, diplomats said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has suspended negotia-

tions on a \$2 billion loan.

"They're not going to have IMF talks until there's elections, a new government, and a full budget Period," One diplomat said.

The annual meeting of India's aid donors, due in June in Paris, has been postponed because of the uncertainties, he said. Last year, India's 13 country donors gave \$6.5 billion.

Standard & Poor's Corp ear-

lier last month downgraded India's long-term debt to BBB-minus from BBB and placed India's ratings on credit watch

with negative implications.

The U.S.-based credit ratings agency said India's fiscal and other policies were being sidetracked by continued political dis-

sension which has led to the collapse of two governments in the past 15 months.

World Bank figures show India

staggering under a foreign debt of \$70 billion, third highest in the developing world.

Foreign exchange reserves,

bolstered by a \$1.79 billion loan

from the IMF in January, stood at \$2.2 billion on March 8 after reaching a low of \$750 million in mid-January.

Bur finance ministry officials

said the IMF money would run

out by the end of June.

"This is probably India's worst

fiscal crisis since independence

(in 1947)," said S.L. Rao, direc-

tor of the National Council of Applied Economic Research.

Rao said India might ask aid

donors to waive requirements

that New Delhi match funds for

projects. "We're sitting on a sub-

stantial amount of unused aid

around \$14 billion.

India last month took drastic

action to cut imports because it

lacked the hard cash to pay for

them. The central bank banned

foreign exchange sales to impor-

ters of capital goods and severely

tightened credit requirements for

other importers.

"Large parts of Indian industry

will suddenly be crippled for want

of raw materials, scores of pro-

jects will be stopped in mid-

stream," said the Economics

Times in an editorial.

The newspaper, which reflects

the views of India's business

establishment, said the central

bank was forced to use "econo-

mic instruments of unprece-

dented savagery" because

politicians had let the economy

drift towards disaster.

India has taken increasingly

desperate steps to ward off de-

fault on its short-term obliga-

tions, as lenders grow ever more

tight-fisted, bankers said.

India revalued its gold assets in

October to reflect international

prices after the first downgrading

of its credit rating by Standard

and Poor's.

The Reserve Bank of India, the

central bank, then sold around

\$750 million in foreign securities

between November and February

to pay for imports, said one West-

ern diplomat, likening the action

to "selling the family silver."

## IMF urges Cyprus to exercise monetary, fiscal restraint

NICOSIA (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has urged the Cyprus government to exercise monetary and fiscal restraint. It said the budget deficit was running at more than three times the level of two years ago.

In a report following its annual review of the Cyprus economy the IMF said "restraint should be the first order of priority in the conduct of financial policy in Cyprus today."

"If we receive aid or support from someone it will be to develop ourselves ... we should not think that others will throw their money at us," Mubarak said. "If that happens it will not be in the form of salaries but as projects to create work and increase production."

While praising the government's "damage containment" policy in the wake of the Gulf crisis, the IMF warned that the expansion of liquidity was excessive.

With the public debt rising in relation to GDP, and with inflationary pressures likely to worsen, the economy would become more vulnerable to shocks and its balance more difficult to sustain," it said.

The public debt ratio rose from

## Seoul suggests Saudi oil company buy into Korean refinery

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea has suggested to Aramco of Saudi Arabia that it buy into Ssangyong Oil Refining Co. instead of seeking to set up a joint venture refinary.

The Korean Economic Daily, quoting official sources, reported that Energy and Resources Minister Lee Hee-il made the proposal in a letter to Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer in connection with Aramco's earlier bid to invest in a new refinery.

The ministry declined to comment on the report.

The paper said Ssangyong has contacted state-run Aramco about the government proposal, but that it was not known how the Saudis reacted.

Ssangyong officials refused to comment but said the firm was considering an increase of its capital, which now amounts to 130 billion won (about \$180 million).

Last January, Aramco applied to the Seoul government for a licence to set up a \$700 million joint venture to operate an oil refinery with Ssangyong.

Lee said his request would be turned down under a government policy that bans new refineries in an effort to protect the domestic oil industry. There are currently five local refineries in operation.

In his letter, the paper said, Lee reiterated the government's disapproval of a new refinery but indicated Seoul would favourably consider investment by Aramco into Ssangyong in consideration of the friendly relations between the two countries.

Saudi Arabia has been a major oil supplier and an important construction market for Korea. Korean contractors are eager to participate in the Gulf nation's postwar reconstruction efforts.



Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

## Seles, Graf to meet in hardcourt final

**SAN ANTONIO.** Texas (Agencies) — Steffi Graf got her wish Saturday with a semifinals victory in the U.S. Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championships that set up a showdown in Sunday's final against Monica Seles, her successor as world number one.

Seles, the top seed, beat third-seeded Marta Maleeva-Fragnerie 6-2, 6-2, while second-seeded Graf crushed France's Julie Halard 6-0, 6-1.

"I played here hoping to have a final against her (Seles)," said Graf, who took a wild-card entry into the tournament.

The German, who held the top spot in the women's rankings for a record 186 successive weeks before giving way to Seles earlier this month, quickly tried to downplay the showdown.

"I just want to play well, I want to relax and have fun," she said. "I just want to do well and be satisfied with myself."

Graf, who has not won a tournament in five months, has lost her two matches against the 17-year-old Yugoslav.

Seles hopes she is in better form when she faces Graf.

"I just couldn't find my rhythm," Seles said after her notching her eighth victory without a defeat to Maleeva-Fragnerie, ranked 11th. "My return was just not working today. I didn't play my game. But it's good that I came back."

Seles, who has won the Australian Open and Players Championship already in 1991, rallied from a 5-0 first-set deficit to beat Kathy Jordan and Liz Smylie 4-6, 6-1 in the semifinals of the \$200,000 Light N' Lively Doubles Saturday.

In other semifinal, the Soviet duo of Natalia Zvereva and Larisa Savchenko polished off Robin White and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-1, 6-3.

Fernandez, Sukova advance in Florida

**TARPON SPRINGS, Florida (AP)** — Gigi Fernandez and Helena Sukova rallied from a 5-0 first-set deficit to beat Kathy Jordan and Liz Smylie 4-6, 6-1 in the semifinals of the \$200,000 Light N' Lively Doubles Saturday.

Jordan and Smylie could do no wrong for much of the opening set. Smylie of Australia served and returned well while her American teammate picked off balls at the net.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
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#### THE ART OF LEGERDEMAIN

**NORTH-SOUTH** Vulnerable. South deals.

**WEST** EAST  
♦ 9 7 5 3 ♦ Void  
♦ 9 6 5 4 ♦ 10 8 2  
♦ 9 7 6 2 ♦ J 10 8 5 3  
♦ 6 ♦ A K 7 3 2

**SOUTH**  
♦ A K Q 10 8 6  
♦ J 7 3  
♦ 0  
♦ J 10 9

The bidding:

South West North East  
1 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ 3 NT  
Pass Pass Dbl 4 ♦  
3 ♦ Pass 4 NT Pass  
5 ♦ Pass 6 ♦ Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

There are some situations where there is no way to deceive an opponent. For example, it is impossible to convince a player who is looking at the A K Q of a suit that you hold those cards. Then again, there are a number of situations which naturally lend themselves to delicate deception. This hand is an example.

South's bidding was inconsistent and led directly to the horrible slam contract. After passing three no

## France beats Albania 5-0

**PARIS (R)** — Two goals apiece from Franck Sauzee and the inevitable Jean-Pierre Papin carried France to a comfortable 5-0 victory over a dispirited Albania in a European Championship soccer qualifier Saturday.

The result maintained the confident French team's two-year unbeaten record and left them perched on top of Group 1 with maximum points from five matches and with eyes firmly fixed on next year's finals in Sweden.

Sauzee and Papin netted their goals in the first half and Albanian keeper Blendi Nalbani added to his side's misery by scoring a bizarre own goal.

Albania had little stomach for a fight after losing three of their 16-strong squad en route to Paris, defected during an unscheduled overnight stop in Switzerland. They had even less when Sauzee blasted home a direct free kick from more than 25 metres after only 35 seconds of the match.

Sauzee, who thundered that effort just inside the right-hand post, showed his versatility by scoring with a second free kick.

A Papin penalty after Rudy Vata felled winger Christophe Cocard in the box in the 33rd minute and a Papin header from a Cocard cross nine minutes later had the match well and truly settled by the break.

With little incentive left, France eased off in the second period but the hapless Nalbani gave them a fifth when he tried to palm away a high cross and pushed it instead over his goal line.

"It will just mean that she or I were better that day," Seles said. "I will have to serve and return better and be more aggressive than I was today."

"There were not too many mistakes from my side."

Both Graf and Seles downplayed the importance of Sunday's match.

"It will just mean that she or I were better that day," Seles said. "I will have to serve and return better and be more aggressive than I was today."

"It's not winning a tournament or winning against someone special," Graf said. "It's me I'm concerned about. I just want to do well."

"I feel better day by day," said Graf, who won the first two U.S. Women's Hardcourt Championships when the tournament was revived in 1988. She missed last year's tournament because of a thumb injury.

Seles hopes she is in better form when she faces Graf.

"I just couldn't find my rhythm," Seles said after her notching her eighth victory without a defeat to Maleeva-Fragnerie, ranked 11th. "My return was just not working today. I didn't play my game. But it's good that I came back."

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**PEANUTS**



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



## Kankkunen leads the Safari Rally

**NAIROBI (Agencies)** — Finland's Juha Kankkunen took the lead early Sunday in the 39th Safari Rally after Carlos Sainz of Spain abandoned the contest due to mechanical failure.

Kankkunen, driving a Lancia Integrale, had accumulated 1 hour, 51 minutes and 10 seconds in penalty points halfway through the fifth leg at the northern town of Maralal.

Sweden's Mikael Ericsson was second in a Toyota Celica GT4, with 2:12:13 in penalty points.

Argentina's Jorge Recalde, driving a Lancia, was third with 2:22:08 in penalty points.

The winner of the race is the driver with the least time lost.

Rally officials said Sainz, who had dominated the race since late Wednesday, quit shortly after the start in Eldoret of the 941-kilometre fifth leg.

But the officials had scant details on the fate of Sainz's GT4, saying only that the engine blew.

Of the 57 starters in Nairobi Wednesday, only 27 were still racing at 0830 GMT Sunday. The others had succumbed to rough terrain, quagmires, mechanical failures and accidents.

The six-day 1,500-kilometre endurance race is divided into six legs, which are in turn split into sectors. Each sector ends with a control point.

Drivers are allowed specified time to cover each sector. Penalty

points are calculated in the time drivers are late reaching control points.

The race is fourth in the World Rally Championship circuit and counts toward the drivers' and manufacturers' title.

Traditionally, the race is held during Easter holidays when the annual long rains normally start in this East African nation. The route runs over some of the worst roads in the world.

L'EQUIPE said Saturday.

Rally director Gilbert Sabine told the newspaper the African route of the rally would run from Tripoli in Libya through Chad, the Central African Republic, Zaire, Zambia and Namibia to finish at the Cape.

Sabine's plan involves not just a major change of route but of character with the rally becoming much more than the Sahara desert classic it has been in its 13 years of existence to date.

The Sunday Nation newspaper said nobody was killed. One onlooker suffered serious injuries.

Sabine suffered slight injuries, but his co-driver, Kenyan Loftus Drews wasn't injured, according to the newspaper.

Four other accidents have been reported since the race started.

Two Kenyan drivers and a Japanese mechanic remained hospitalised Sunday in good condition, rally officials said.

The six-day route takes the vehicles through tracks in the semi-arid northern Kenya. The remaining contenders are expected in Nairobi Monday via a route around the perpetually snow-covered Mt. Kenya, Africa's second highest peak.

Meanwhile the Paris-Dakar rally is set for a major shake-up next year when organisers plan a 12,000-kilometre trek finishing in South Africa and running the length of the continent, the sports daily L'EQUIPE said Saturday.

Rally director Gilbert Sabine told the newspaper the African route of the rally would run from Tripoli in Libya through Chad, the Central African Republic, Zaire, Zambia and Namibia to finish at the Cape.

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## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY APRIL 1, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

22) There are a lot of activities to be done by you and especially in making your surroundings both more attractive and more comfortable to others.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you have in mind that is happy and agreeable and the special delights that attract you is good after you have done what you promised.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You now need to make sure you do something at home that will reassure your own clan that all the frustration you have is not directed at them.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) This is the moment for you to handle those personal chores in such a manner that your usual allies will be impressed and go along with you.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You have a chance now to add to your income so avoid that doing for another that costs considerable and take time to build your own assets.

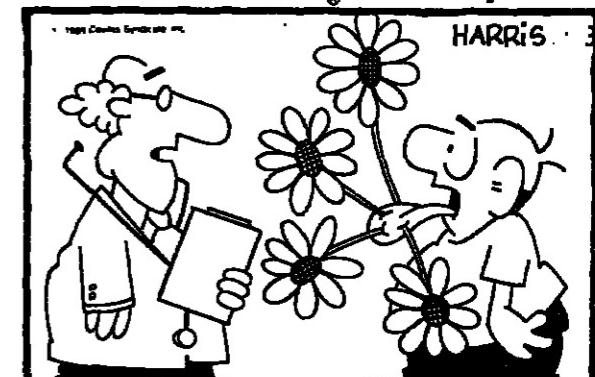
**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) There are a considerable number of personal projects that require you to get the good will of usual allies so be off to see and tell them early.

**TODAY'S CHILD:** If your child is born today she or he succeeds quite well in work that requires near touch and fine finish and artistic feeling. Learning not to put aside or forget obligations that have been made of a material or practical nature will be the hardest aspect that this progeny will need to master.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22)

## THE BETTER HALF

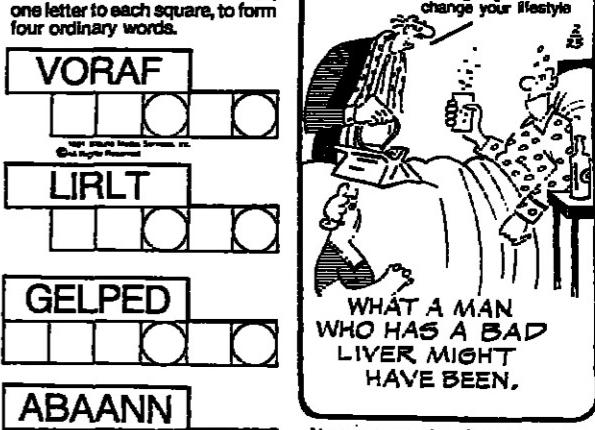
By Harris



## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

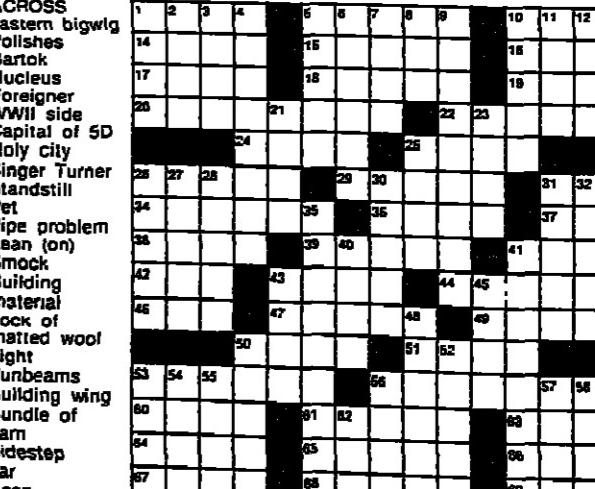
(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: FOYER ALIAS SECOND DETAIN

Answer: As an artist, the silhouette maker's view of life was rather this—"ONE-SIDED!"

## THE Daily Crossword

by Fran Regus



## Soviet Georgia defies Kremlin with referendum on independence

TBILISI, Soviet Union (R) — Voters in Georgia flocked to polling stations Sunday in a referendum on whether to break with 70 years of Communist rule and restore the southern republic's short-lived independence.

With nationalist feeling running high during the past two years in the trans-Caucasian republic, the outcome appeared to be a foregone conclusion.

Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia has predicted an overwhelming majority favouring independence as part of his step-by-step approach of restoring the independent 1918-1921 Georgian state which was crushed by the Red Army.

"It will be a great majority, maybe more than 80 per cent," Gamsakhurdia said after voting with his wife in Tbilisi, the republic's tree-lined capital. "It will be a great victory in our fight for independence."

Gamsakhurdia came to power last year in elections that swept the Communists from power.

He said his top priorities within two years would be to "change this old, sorry economic system. More privatisation and more contact with Western economies."

Election officials said there had been a heavy early turnout in bright sunshine in the tree-lined streets of Tbilisi. Many voters carried leafy branches marking Palm Sunday — celebrated by the

Orthodox Church a week later than many other Christian faiths.

"A lot of people of various nationalities are coming in. Voting is more active than in previous elections," said Nataela Tetradze, an electoral official in one Tbilisi district.

"I don't doubt 100 per cent here are for independence."

Polls were to remain open until late evening, with first results expected Monday afternoon.

The 3.4 million voters were asked on ballot papers printed in seven languages: "Do you agree that the state independence of Georgia should be restored on the basis of the independence act of May 26, 1918?"

Georgia was one of six Soviet republics to boycott President Mikhail Gorbachev's country-wide referendum on March 17 on preserving the Soviet Union as a renewed federation.

Gorbachev, who portrayed the 58 per cent "yes" vote as an endorsement of his vision of a looser union, has warned of chaos and civil war if the Soviet Union begins to splinter.

But the outcome did nothing to calm separatist passions. Three of the other boycotting republics — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the Baltic region — have held their own "opinion polls" which returned majorities in favour of restoring their pre-World War II independence.

Alongside it was a poem dedicated to Gamsakhurdia on his 52nd birthday, which he celebrated Sunday.

Gamsakhurdia, who came to power last year in elections that swept the Communists out of office, said Saturday that secession depended on "the stance of Western nations and the readiness of the central Soviet government to negotiate."

He said "certain political steps" would be taken — expected to include an independent army and foreign policy and a separate currency.

"We shall vote for an independent Georgia," said Ludmila Shalagurova. "I was born in the Ukraine but I have lived here for about 30 years. I think each republic should be independent."

But Gamsakhurdia dismissed Gorbachev's appeal as interference in his republic's affairs.

"Gorbachev is the main reason for that bloodshed," he told reporters. "It is his policy and it is directed against us. It is the Kremlin's war against Georgia because we are fighting for independence."

Newspapers in the republic, generally under the control of Georgia's nationalist authorities, called for a big "yes" vote.

"Let us vote for an independent Georgia," read the banner headline in Republic of Georgia, the largest Georgian-language daily.

Alongside it was a poem dedicated to Gamsakhurdia on his 52nd birthday, which he celebrated Sunday.

## Hurd wants to speed up Hong Kong talks

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd wants to hasten what he has called "the snail's pace" of talks with China over the future of Hong Kong when he visits Peking this week.

The five-day trip, which makes Hurd the most senior British minister to visit China since the June 1989 bloodshed in Tiananmen Square, will be a delicate one.

As well as trying to get rid of mutual suspicions between Hong

Kong and Peking, Hurd will try to settle differences over a new airport in the colony which returns to China in 1997.

Also on the agenda will be human rights. "Tiananmen Square has entered our vocabulary as an expression of hope crushed by military force," Hurd wrote in an article last week referring to the military suppression of pro-democracy protests in Peking in June 1989.

## Activists' fears mount over human rights in Hong Kong after 1997

HONG KONG (R) — On the eve of a three-day United Nations Human Rights committee hearing on Hong Kong in New York, activists and lawyers in the British colony voiced fears China's 1997 resumption of sovereignty would remove what protection of basic human rights they presently enjoy.

With China often dispensing criminal justice with a bullet in the back of the head, they said the meetings starting Monday could be the last time the colony's rights record comes under international scrutiny.

Human rights organisations

and lawyers fear international monitoring of rights in the territory will end in 1997 since China is not a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

"This is the first time in modern history that you have an entire people who will be delivered to the sovereignty of a state which is not a signatory of the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) and not a democracy as we know it," said Daniel Fung, a leading human rights lawyer.

China has been widely criticised for its human rights record, particularly after the Chinese army brutally crushed pro-democracy demonstrations in June 1989.

## Los Angeles' black officers divided over motorist beating

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The largest organisation of black Los Angeles police officers says racism does not exist within the 5,000-member department. But a splinter group of black officers and an outspoken community leader say it does.

The split among the department's 1,300 black members was sparked by the March 3 videotape that shows white officers beating black motorist Rodney King.

Highly publicised racial slurs made by the policemen who beat King have made the incident even more personal to some black Los Angeles officers.

As the King beating continues to simmer under a nationwide spotlight, black officers are stepping forward to say bigotry is alive in the Los Angeles Police Department.

Last week, officer Janine Bouey told of white colleagues leaving a calling card from the Ku Klux Klan on her windshield two years ago. Officer Carl McGill, head of the recently formed African-American Peace Officers Association, said discrimination complaints he has made during a six-year tenure have been ignored or used against him by the department.

"Nobody is acting in our behalf," said McGill, whose association numbers 40 LAPD members, as well as firefighters, sheriffs' deputies and other law enforcement officers. "The racist tone is set by individuals who hold key positions. If your superior makes racist remarks, where do you go?"

Danny Bakewell, president of the group Brotherhood Crusade, said he has heard from more than a dozen "absolutely outraged" black officers who are afraid to come forward.

Such complaints resulted in a ruling last year by the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing that the department systematically denied promotions and advancements to black officers.

"That outrage is clearly tempered by survival and underscored by fear," Bakewell said. "If they speak out, there will be

clearly focused reprisals."

Brotherhood Crusade is a community activist organisation involved in curbing gang violence and cleaning up inner city neighbourhoods. Bakewell is also involved in efforts to have blacks shop only in black-owned stores in the wake of the shooting death of a black teenager by a Korean grocer.

Four white officers have been indicted on charges of assault with a deadly weapon in the attack on King. The videotape of King being kicked, clubbed and shocked with a 50,000-volt stun gun has been seen by millions of television viewers across the United States.

One of the indicted officers also made racist comments that night, referring to a previous domestic dispute call involving blacks as being "right out of Gorillas in the Mist," a movie about ape research in Africa.

The remarks were contained in publicly released transcripts of patrol car computer messages.

The national uproar created by these incidents highlights a department that prohibited black officers from riding in patrol cars with white colleagues until 1965, more than 10 years after the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed school segregation.

Mayor Tom Bradley, who was the department's first black lieutenant before retiring in 1961, said in an interview last week the King beating presents an opportunity to investigate "constant and continuing" complaints from black officers who say they have been passed over for promotion.

Such complaints resulted in a ruling last year by the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing that the department systematically denied promotions and advancements to black officers.

"Do I support chief Gates? You're damn right I do," Doster said. "When these calls of Gates being a racist come through, I can't buy it. This is a lynch mob."

Doster said his black colleagues "feel a sense of betrayal and a whole lot of other things" about racist statements made by the white officers who attacked King.

"But I'm not going to make this a black-and-white issue of police brutality," Doster said.

At the centre of the King furor is police chief Daryl F.

Gates — an outspoken leader who was reprimanded nine years ago by the city police commission for saying blacks may be more susceptible than "normal people" to a now-banned law enforcement chokehold.

The mayor, Bakewell and dozens of other politicians and community leaders have asked Gates to step down. The chief did not say what steps were contemplated.

Standing behind him is the 50-member Oscar Joel Bryant Foundation, named for the first black LAPD officer killed in the line of duty.

"We believe that during the last 15 years, the chief has provided strong leadership," said Sgt. James Craig, foundation president and 10-year department veteran.

The opportunity for a black to be promoted in this department is as good as it can be," Craig said.

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He added, "obviously, everybody doesn't feel the same way I feel."

Lt. Lyman Doster does. He is a 22-year LAPD veteran and president of the Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives, which represents 15 of the department's 17 blacks who have achieved or surpassed the rank of lieutenant.

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